

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 M-03

A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 IO-13 OMB-01 /146 W

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R 201521 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 277

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2148

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB PINT SW

SUBJECT: DOCKWORKERS STRIKE DISRUPTS GOTEBOG PORT: SCHEDULED
TO END NEXT MONDAY

1. SUMMARY. OFF- AND- ON WILDCAT STRIKE OF DOCKWORKERS BELINGING TO INDEPENDENT SWEDISH HARBOR WORKERS UNION HAS DISRUPTED PORT OF GOTEBOG FOR PAST TEN DAYS. STRIKE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO END MONDAY, JUNE 25. HARBOR WORKERS REPRESENT ABOUT HALF OF GOTEBOG' S 1200 DOCKERS, REMAINDER BEING MEMBERS OF NON- STRIKING TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION. END OF SUMMARY.

2. PORT OF GOTEBOG DISRUPTED SINCE WILDCAT WORKOUT JUNE 6 BY 200-300 DOCKERS BELONGING TO INDEPENDENT SWEDISH HARBOR WORKERS UNION (HAMNARBETAREFORBUNDET). LONDON- HULL TERMINAL MAINLY AFFECTED. WALKOUT FOLLOWED RECEIPT OF PORT AUTHORITY LETTER TO TERMINAL WORKERS REPORTEDLY ACCUSING DOCKERS OF GOOFING- OFF. OFF- AND- ON WALKOUTS OVER NEXT SIX DAYS DISRUPTED SHIPPING UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED JUNE 12 TO FORM STUDY COMMITTEE.

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3. JUNE 13, DAY FOLLOWING RETURN TO FULL WORK, HARBOR WORKER STEWARD IN LONDON- HULL TERMINAL FIRED FOR " THREATENING STRIKE" AND " ILLEGAL AGITATION". MOST OF 600 DOCKERS FROM ALL TERMINALS BELONGING TO HARBOR WORKERS REFUSED TO WORK STARTING JUNE 18. STRIKE STILL IN PROCESS, BUT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO END MONDAY, JUNE 25. ALL PORT ACTIVITIES CONSIDERABLY AFFECTED BUT NOT ENTIRELY CLOSED AS EQUAL NUMBER OF DOCKERS BELONGING TO LO TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION AND SOME HARBOR WORKERS CONTINUE TO WORK.

4. HARBOR WORKERS STILL DEMANDING, WITHOUT MUCH HOPE, REHIRING OF FIRED STEWARD. AS BACK- UP POSITION UNION CINSIDERING HIRING HIM AS TRADE UNION SECRETARY (OMBUDSMAN).

5. COMMENT. GOTEBORG STRIKE IS FIRST ACTION IN SWEDEN' S BUSIEST PORT BY INDEPENDENT UNION. FACT THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO CLOSE PORT REVEALS WEAKNESS OF COMPETING UNIONS AND MAY SLOW DEFECTIONS OF DOCKERS FROM LO TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION TO INDEPENDENT. AT PRESENT, COUNTRY' S 4,000 DOCKERS ABOUT EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN TRANSPORT WORKERS AND ITS HARBOR WORKERS STEPCHILD.

6. SOME CHARGES ALSO BEING MADE THAT FAR- LEFT MAOISTS (KFML- R) WHO AGITATED DURING PREVIOUS STRIKES IN GOTEBORG SHIPYARS AND NEARBY SAAB AUTO ASSEMBLY PLANT, ALSO MIXED UP IN THIS ACTION. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY ARE PRESENT, BUT MAIN CAUSE OF TROUBLE APPEARS TO BE HARD- NOSED MANAGEMENT AND NEED OF NEW UNION TO ASSERT ITSELF IN THIS SITUATION.
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